

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Ray S. Cline

DATE: 10 June 1954

FROM : Herbert I. Miller

TS # 100703

Copy No. 1

SUBJECT: ONE Memorandum (TS #79248), dated 27 May 1954

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 27 May 1954 to the Chairman of JAEIC on the subject, "Proposed Paragraphs on Soviet Nuclear Program and Weapons Strength for 11-4-54: Soviet Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action Through 1959." I regret that this interim reply has been delayed during my absence from my office.

2. As a general concept I find it necessary to re-state that which I have stated to the Board on a number of occasions, to wit: the words of the JAEIC estimates on Soviet atomic energy activities are carefully thought out and approved by the IAC as representing the best possible words to describe for either ignorant laymen or qualified experts, the status and future course of the Soviet progress in this field. These words are reviewed by a panel of experts engaged by the Director for the purpose of determining whether the words express a proper reflection of the available evidence. Having gone through all of these steps and not having received from any of the planning groups which use the estimates, any complaint as to intelligibility, we find ourselves unable to understand the need for your suggested revision. We feel certain that if the IAC members or planners who wish to use the estimate have any particular questions which arise from the language used in the JAEIC estimate, these questions would be put to the respective agency and department groups which participate in the preparation of the JAEIC estimate and are actually engaged in the day-to-day reading and evaluation of the available evidence.

3. In conclusion, we do not find any merit in the re-arrangement given in your suggested draft. We find, in addition, a sufficient amount of change as to distort the meaning of certain passages in the material heretofore submitted as the JAEIC contribution to NIE 11-4-54. We believe that the changes in language as suggested by you will result only in continuance of the confusion in the understanding of the Soviet Atomic Energy Program which was initially introduced by NSIE 11-2-54 and which we think has now been laid to rest by the issuance of NIE 11-3A-54.

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The decision to use the language of 11-3A-54 in NIE 11-4-54 had been reached as a result of conversations between ONE representatives, including General Bull, and the undersigned. I am at a loss to understand the requirement for re-examining this decision at this time.


H. I. MILLER

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Mr. Herb Miller, Chairman JAEIC

27 May 1954

Ray S. Cline

Proposed Paragraphs on Soviet Nuclear Program and Weapons Strength
for 11-4-54: Soviet Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action
Through 1959

I am not very happy with the abbreviated treatment of Nuclear Weapons in NIE 11-5-54, and hope that the next version (NIE 11-4-54) can contain something that tells your story better, even if it is less faithful to the language of excerpts from NIE 11-3A. The Board and IAC representatives agreed unanimously to ask JAEIC to approve something like the attached at your next meeting. Would you let me know if this is feasible? We want the language technically accurate, of course, but would like it intelligible to us ignorant laymen.

/s/

RAY S. CLINE

(Attachment was nuclear energy section of 7 June 1954 Draft for the Board of NIE 11-4-54, Paragraphs 85 through 91.)

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